UTAH SYSTEM OF TECHNICAL COLLEGES (USTC; UTECH)

2019 General Session

Issue Briefs

USTC OUTCOMES OF ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

The eight colleges of the Utah System of Technical Colleges (USTC) are each accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE). Accreditation is reaffirmed every two to six years. COE, which was established in 1995, is recognized by the United States Department of Education as a national accrediting agency for the accreditation of non-degree-granting and applied associate degree-granting post-secondary occupational education institutions.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

For a USTC college to maintain good accreditation standing with COE, each of its accredited programs must meet the minimum standard in each of the following categories every year:

Completion: 60% of students enrolled in the program complete the program.

Placement: 70% of students who complete a program must be employed in the program's field of study or placed in additional education.

Licensure: 70% of students taking licensure exams must pass their exam. This standard is limited to programs preparing for licensed occupations such as practical nurse, electrician, and truck driver.

The tables on the following pages list the accredited programs reported by each college to COE in 2018 along with their associated completion, placement, and licensure rates. Most programs met or exceeded the standard. An N/A in the licensure category, typically indicates that the occupation related to the program does not require a licensure exam. An N/A in the placement rate category means that the students enrolled in those programs are uniformly already employed. COE also accredits programs, the students of which are uniformly already employed in the field of study pursued, as "Job Upgrade" programs. As existing employment is a prerequisite for study, placement and licensure rates are not applicable and are not collected by the accrediting body.

When a program falls below one of the three COE standards, it is placed under review and the college is required to file an improvement plan to bring the program up to the minimum standard or discontinue the program within 18-24 months. There are two programs highlighted in red below that they have fallen below the COE standards and are under review.

The tables at the end of the brief show a list of all programs that were placed under review by COE from 2014 – 2018. The tables are broken out by year and college, and show: 1) what program fell below the minimum COE standard, 2) which benchmark was not met, and 3) college resolution outlined in their improvement plan. If a college is not listed each year, it means they did not have any programs that fell below the minimum COE standards.

Brief History of USTC Funding

USTC Total Funding, FY15-FY20

	FY15 Actual	FY16 Actual	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Appropriated	FY20 Proposed
Total	72,540,100	78,006,700	84,763,200	94,442,400	103,145,700	103,699,500

USTC Budget Requests, FY19 vs. FY20

	Employer-Driven Program Expansion	Custom Fit	Equipment Funds
FY19	4,228,200	-	3,000,000
FY20	7,000,000	650,000	3,000,000
Gov.'s budget FY20	7,000,000	1,000,000	6,000,000

QUESTIONS?